

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR/REG:TMCNAMARA

APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:TJHIRSCHFELD

EUR/RPM:GCHRISTIANSON

PM/DCA:CFLOWEREE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 215575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF BRITISH ON NEW MBFR PROPOSALS

REF: STATE 211141

1. WE CALLED IN WILBERFORCE AND MAKINS OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE SEPT. 30 TO OUTLINE US PROPOSAL IN REFTEL. US PARTICIPANTS STRESSED THAT US PROPOSALS WERE INTENDED FOR FULL DISCUSSION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AND, IF ALLIES CONCUR, PRESENTATION TO THE EAST DURING THE PRESENT SESSION. WE ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT SOME DETAILS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THESE PROPOSALS REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS MEASURES WHICH WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US WHOSE PRECISE FORMULATION WOULD BE WORKED OUT IN CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES.

PRELIMINARY REACTIONS INCLUDED:

A. INQUIRY WHETHER UP TO 15 PERCENT REDUCTION IN US AND

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SOVIET AIR MANPOWER WOULD AFFECT AIRCRAFT DEPLOYMENTS IN

NGA, AND HOW SUCH US REDUCTIONS WOULD RELATE TO OPTION III AIRCRAFT REDUCTIONS. (WE SAID REDUCTIONS NEED NOT NECESSARILY AFFECT DEPLOYMENTS AND THERE IS NO DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH OPTION III BUT ANY INTERACTION OF THESE TWO FEATURES WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.)

B. STANDARD BRITISH OBJECTIONS TO GIVING UPDATED DATA ON GROUND FORCE TOTALS TO EAST NON-RECIPROCALLY.

C. SPECULATION THAT 20,000 MEN EXCEPTION FOR EXERCISES TO RESIDUAL FORCE LEVELS MIGHT AFFECT EUROPEAN STATES WITH FORCES OUTSIDE THE AREA, AND THEREFORE WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED IN CONTEXT OF NO-INCREASE FORMULA.

D. INQUIRY WHETHER US HAD DECIDED ANY NUMERICAL DETAILS ON US PHASE 2 REDUCTION COMMITMENT (WE RESPONDED NEGATIVELY).

E. WHETHER US AGREEMENT TO TAKE REDUCTIONS IN UNITS WOULD NOT COMPLICATE PHASE 1 REDUCTIONS AND ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR PHASE 2. (WE INDICATED THAT PRIMARY AIM OF THIS POINT WAS TO UNDERCUT EAST'S ARGUMENT ABOUT SOVIETS REDUCING TANK ARMY IN RETURN FOR US REDUCING 29,000 "COOKS". US WAS NOT COMMITTING ITSELF TO REDUCING ONLY OR ENTIRELY IN UNITS BUT MERELY INDICATING THAT REDUCTIONS COULD BE TAKEN IN UNITS, NOT FURTHER DEFINED.)

2. WILBERFORCE UNDERTOOK TO REPORT TO LONDON AND THOUGHT UK WOULD AWAIT FORMAL US PRESENTATION TO NAC. WE INDICATED US PRESENTATION ON AIR MANPOWER LIKELY TO COME VERY SOON. INGERSOLL

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